

HOUSE RESOLUTION 9

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of James William Hoppers, Sr.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of James William Hoppers, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hoppers was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a native of Ripley, James “Jim” Hoppers was born on October 26, 1922, to the late William Augustus Hoppers and the late Lillie Reynolds Hoppers; and

WHEREAS, after gaining his early education through the Ripley school system, Jim Hoppers attended Mississippi College in Clinton for one year before returning to West Tennessee and enrolling at Union University; and

WHEREAS, his pursuit of a secondary education was interrupted by World War II and Mr. Hoppers’s honorable decision to serve his country through military service; he rendered sterling and valorous service as a member of the United States Navy, during which time he attended both Millsaps College and Midshipman’s School at Columbia University; and

WHEREAS, Jim Hoppers was first commissioned as an Ensign before serving in the Pacific Theater aboard LST 219; he was discharged in 1946 at the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade; and

WHEREAS, following his time in the United States Navy, Mr. Hoppers returned to Union for his final year of scholarship, gaining his degree later that same year; and

WHEREAS, while a student at Union University, he participated in a number of extracurricular activities and organizations, including the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and the

local radio station, WTJS; his work as an announcer and disc jockey for the station launched Jim Hoppers into what would become a lifelong career in the radio industry; and

WHEREAS, after gaining his degree, Mr. Hoppers joined with Aaron Robinson, founder of the Dixie Network, and worked for the network until its sale; and

WHEREAS, during his time as a disc jockey and broadcaster, he garnered the respect and admiration of many in the radio industry, as evidenced by his receipt of the Tennessee Broadcasting Association's "Tennessee Broadcaster of the Year" award in 1985; and

WHEREAS, his career in radio connected Jim Hoppers to his community, to which he dedicated a great deal of time and energy. He served as an early President of the Jackson Jaycees; volunteered his time as the emcee of the Jaycee's Miss Tennessee Pageant; held a life membership in his local VFW post; served on the boards of Parks and Recreation, the Jackson Transit Authority, the Commission on Youth and Aging, and Youth Town; and held the distinction of holding membership in the Jackson Authority Board for twenty-five years, during many of which he held the post of Chairman; and

WHEREAS, Jim Hoppers was an active and devout member of the Northside United Methodist Church, which he served faithfully for many years as a member of the Pacers Sunday School class. He held previous membership in the Forest Heights United Methodist Church, serving the church in many capacities; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, for sixty-three years, Jim Hoppers enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Jane, who survives him. He was the proud father and father-in-law of Dr. Jimmy Hoppers and his wife, Melanie; and

WHEREAS, his will be sorely missed by his grandchildren, Katie Hoppers, Patrick Hoppers, Sara Hoppers, James W. Hoppers III, and Brian Hoppers; his sister and brother-in-law, Betty and David Arnold; and his nephews, Scott Arnold and Wayne Arnold; and

WHEREAS, Jim Hoppers, Sr., leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of James William Hoppers, Sr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Hoppers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.